

**To:** Knabel, Jessica[Knabel.Jessica@epa.gov]  
**From:** Petersen, Chris  
**Sent:** Sat 8/15/2015 1:48:16 PM  
**Subject:** FW: draft EPA Irrigation Ditch/Water Operations Resume Statement

J. Chris Petersen

Deputy Associate Director

Response and Prevention Branch

US EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Ave, Ste. 1200

Dallas, TX 75202

214-665-3167 office

214-665-7447 fax

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**From:** Petersen, Chris  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 8:48 AM  
**To:** Gray, David; Edlund, Carl; Garcia, David; Crossland, Ronnie; Curry, Ron  
**Cc:** Coleman, Sam; Hayes, Mark; R6 GKM - Managers; Foster, Althea; Loesel, Matthew  
**Subject:** RE: draft EPA Irrigation Ditch/Water Operations Resume Statement

Apparently each individual operator was notified they could begin flushing operations. All but

one operator was reached by phone. A message was left for the one remaining operator. Rinehart thought the flushing could have begun as early as 5 pm yesterday.

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**From:** Gray, David

**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 8:40 AM

**To:** Petersen, Chris; Edlund, Carl; Garcia, David; Crossland, Ronnie; Curry, Ron

**Cc:** Coleman, Sam; Hayes, Mark; R6 GKM - Managers

**Subject:** RE: draft EPA Irrigation Ditch/Water Operations Resume Statement

It would be helpful to know when operations began and when they are expected to conclude.

**From:** Petersen, Chris  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 7:39 AM  
**To:** Edlund, Carl; Garcia, David; Crossland, Ronnie; Curry, Ron  
**Cc:** Gray, David; Coleman, Sam; Hayes, Mark; R6 GKM - Managers  
**Subject:** RE: draft EPA Irrigation Ditch/Water Operations Resume Statement

18 irrigation ditches

Secretary Flynn announced at the community meeting last night that the flushing of these ditches would begin last night for 12 hours. The ditches would then be filled in preparation for irrigation operations.

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**From:** Edlund, Carl  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 8:23 AM  
**To:** Garcia, David; Crossland, Ronnie; Curry, Ron  
**Cc:** Gray, David; Coleman, Sam; Hayes, Mark; Petersen, Chris  
**Subject:** RE: draft EPA Irrigation Ditch/Water Operations Resume Statement

Chris Petersen will confirm the number, he's running the EOC this morning.

Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** Garcia, David  
**Sent:** 8/15/2015 7:54 AM  
**To:** Crossland, Ronnie; Curry, Ron  
**Cc:** Gray, David; Edlund, Carl; Coleman, Sam; Hayes, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: draft EPA Irrigation Ditch/Water Operations Resume Statement

I too dont know. But I have been in meetings and calls where they conveyed the need for additional sediment sampling at 5 ditch locations where visible sediment is visible on the banks.

Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** Crossland, Ronnie  
**Sent:** 8/15/2015 6:50 AM  
**To:** Curry, Ron  
**Cc:** Gray, David; Edlund, Carl; Coleman, Sam; Hayes, Mark; Garcia, David  
**Subject:** Re: draft EPA Irrigation Ditch/Water Operations Resume Statement

I don't have the number. If we need it, I will ask the State Engineers office when both of us are at the EOC.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 15, 2015, at 6:41 AM, Curry, Ron <[Curry.Ron@epa.gov](mailto:Curry.Ron@epa.gov)> wrote:

Do we know a number ?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 15, 2015, at 5:43 AM, Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)> wrote:

Here is a draft statement

## EPA Statement on New Mexico irrigation ditch flushing

New Mexico announced its decision initiation a plan for the flushing of irrigation ditches along the Animas River. The irrigation ditches will be flushed for 12 hours before normal irrigation and livestock watering operations can resume.

Flushing of irrigation ditches and resuming irrigation and livestock watering operations is a state and local decision. EPA sampling results from the river collected last week similarly show that water quality conditions are returning toward pre-event conditions.

We know the state has gone through a deliberative process in making this decision. EPA will continue to sample, analyze, and make data available to support local decision makers moving forward to allow them to make the best informed decisions.